

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



February 2024

A donation
will be appreciated



The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton
Vicar: Reverend Canon Andrew Micklefield, 88794
 St Lawrence Vicarage, Church St, Alton GU34 2BW

Sunday Services

Details of Sunday services for the month can be found on the back cover. You will find that there is a variety of services intended to meet the needs of people of many different ages and backgrounds. You are welcome to worship with us.

Family Worship

The church wants to make it as easy as possible for families with children to become part of the worship life of the church. To find out more contact one of the clergy.

Marriage and Baptism Enquiries

Enquiries should be made to the Parish Office by telephone 01420 513881 or by calling at the Parish Office or email: office@potr-alton.co.uk

Parish Centre Bookings

It is possible to book St Lawrence Parish Centre or All Saints Parish Hall for functions and other events. Bookings for all Church Buildings and Halls should be made to the Parish Office.

Parish Administrator (9am - 12noon)

Philippa Penfold (Mon-Wed) **07453 590569**

Ellie Elder (Thurs & Friday) **07865 292401**

PCC Secretary

Philippa Penfold 01420 513881

PCC Minute Secretary

Sue Hubbard 01420 513881

office@potr-alton.co.uk

Treasurer

Craig Stolton treasurer@potr-alton.co.uk

Parish Office: Tel. 01420 513881

Email: office@potr-alton.co.uk

All Saints Church Hall

Open Monday to Friday

9.00am-12.00 noon

Parish Web Site:

<http://www.potr-alton.co.uk>

Associate Vicar

Vacancy

Assistant Priests

Jon Rooke 07519 046593

Revd Martin East 549595

Revd Lynn Power 07850 232995

Revd Bruce Nicole 07974 021764

Revd Peter Brown 549943

Licensed Lay Minister

Elaine Brown 549943

Curate

Wendy Burnhams 07514 280362

Anna Chaplain Pioneer

Debbie Thrower 07865 292401

Anna Chaplain

Kate Powell 07484 026546

Churchwardens

Matthew Bayliss 07920 002328

Helen Walters 07766 076899

Clive Muller 86064

Angie Briggs 544138

John Vivian 07535 188475

Sarah Neish 565696

Deanery Synod Representatives

Derek Gurney Matthew Bayliss

Tori Hewitt Elspeth Gurney

PCC Special Interest Members

Robin Kemp (SL) Sarah Neish (St.P)

Wendy Burnhams (All S)

Lisa Hillan (HR)

Parish Donations Coordinator

Tori Hewitt 07554 428100

Pastoral Visiting

c/o The Ministry Team via the Office

Youth, Children & Family Worker

Vacant

The Parish of the Resurrection lies within the Winchester Diocese of the Church of England & is in covenant partnership with Alton Methodist Church in the Greater Alton Project

First Thoughts . . .

It seems to me that we are often saying hello and goodbye to people in our Ministry Team. It is a joy to see people grow and move on and then see what God is doing in their lives and it is also so good to welcome people in and see them fit in and develop their gifts and skills.

Recently we said good bye to Martha Lloyd who was an energetic and loved youth and children's worker. We also said our farewells to Gordon - a valuable Associate Vicar who was much loved for his enthusiasm and care. We are in the process of evaluating our provision and ministry for children, families and young people. We hope, in the very near future, to advertise for a new member of the team. For our youth ministry we are buying some resource and time from The Kings Arms - the PCC recently agreed this. Would you please pray for our Youth, Children and Family Work Committee as they prepare, put paperwork together and move us towards an appointment.

As you already know we have made an exciting and successful appointment of a new Associate Vicar. Revd David Chattell will be joining us soon. David is coming all the way from Preston Candover where he has been the Vicar of The Candover Valley, Farleigh and Wield for the past twelve years. I know that the people of these parishes are very sad to know that he is leaving yet we are really pleased to welcoming an experienced and creative priest. David will move into the Holybourne Vicarage with his wife, Ruth and their children towards the end of February. We have a licensing date - Monday 18th March - when the Bishop of Winchester will be with us in the evening. David and Ruth will then take much needed holiday until Easter and begin work with us the following week. We have much to look forward to - God is good! Please pray for David and Ruth and their family in this time of transition.



In the wider church we have welcomed our new Bishop of Winchester to the diocese. Bishop Philip's appointment was announced some time ago and he and his wife, Ruth, moved to Winchester back in the autumn. Yet it was only on 13th January that we enjoyed his welcome service in Winchester Cathedral. It was an extremely moving service with fabulous music, intimate prayers and joy. We are so pleased to have Bishop Philip with us and we will be seeing him out and about amongst the diocese. In his welcome service sermon he spoke of 'heritage, healing and hope'. As clergy in the Diocese we were fortunate to have

a residential conference with Bishop Philip in the week following the welcome service. It was good to be with him and everyone else! One of the things Bishop Philip shared with us was a quote from G.K. Chesterton -

'The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.'

A mark of our ministry is to be ordered but also to allow wild things to emerge. I find this so encouraging and as we pray for our new Youth, Children and Families Worker and for David it is a clear and imaginative focus. May God answer our prayers and find us willing to keep serving and seeing His church grow.

Andrew





Do you receive our weekly
Email newsletters?
If not, but you would like to,
please contact Ellie in the
office - office@potr-alton.co.uk
and we can add you to the
database.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



THE LIGHTHOUSE

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At the end of the session, the children will be brought back to church to
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All our leaders are DBS checked.

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GLW

Year 3 to year 6
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St Lawrence Church, Galilee
Chapel

Games | Toast | Bible Study |
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Contact the Parish Office on
office@potr-alton.co.uk

Bible Readings for the month of February 2024

Taken from the Church of England lectionary – readings to use daily

Thursday 1 st	Psalm 143	Genesis 21: 1 - 21	Matthew 27: 57 - end
Friday 2 nd	Psalm 144	Genesis 22: 1 - 19	Matthew 28: 1 - 15
Saturday 3 rd	Psalm 147	Genesis 23	Matthew 28: 16 - end
Sunday 4th 2 before Lent	Candlemas Malachi 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40		
Monday 5 th	Psalm 2 and 3	Genesis 29: 31 – 30: 24	2 Timothy 4: 1 - 8
Tuesday 6 th	Psalm 5	Genesis 31: 1 - 24	2 Timothy 4: 9 - end
Wednesday 7 th	Psalm 119: 1 - 32	Genesis 31: 25 – 32: 2	Titus 1
Thursday 8 th	Psalm 15	Genesis 32: 3 - 30	Titus 2
Friday 9 th	Psalm 19	Genesis 33: 1 - 17	Titus 3
Saturday 10 th	Psalm 23	Genesis 35	Philemon
Sunday 11th Sunday before Lent	Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9		
Monday 12 th	Psalm 30	Genesis 37: 1 - 11	Galatians 1
Tuesday 13 th	Psalm 36	Genesis 37: 12 - end	Galatians 2: 1 - 10
Wednesday 14 th	Psalm 38	Daniel 9: 3 – 6, 17 - 19	1 Timothy 6: 6 - 19
Thursday 15 th	Psalm 77 or 37	Genesis 39	Galatians 2: 11 - end
Friday 16 th	Psalm 3 or 31	Genesis 40	Galatians 3: 1 - 14
Saturday 17 th	Psalm 71 or 42	Genesis 41: 1 - 24	Galatians 3: 15 - 22
Sunday 18th Lent 1	Last Words - Father, forgive the Zechariah 9: 9-13 Luke 23: 26-34		
Monday 19 th	Psalm 11 or 44	Genesis 41: 25 - 45	Galatians 3: 23 – 4: 7
Tuesday 20 th	Psalm 44 or 48	Genesis 41: 46 – 42: 5	Galatians 4: 8 - 20
Wednesday 21 st	Psalm 6 or 119: 57-80	Genesis 42: 6 - 17	Galatians 4: 21 – 5: 1
Thursday 22 nd	Psalm 42 or 57	Genesis 42: 18 - 28	Galatians 5: 2 - 15
Friday 23 rd	Psalm 22 or 51	Genesis 42: 29 - end	Galatians 5: 16 - end
Saturday 24 th	Psalm 63 or 68	Genesis 43: 1 - 15	Galatians 6
Sunday 25th Lent 2	Last Words - Today you will be with me in paradise Romans 4: 13-25 Luke 23: 32-43		
Monday 26 th	Psalm 32 or 71	Genesis 43: 16 - end	Hebrews 1
Tuesday 27 th	Psalm 50 or 73	Genesis 44: 1 - 17	Hebrews 2: 1 - 9
Wednesday 28 th	Psalm 35 or 77	Genesis 44: 18 - end	Hebrews 2: 10 - end
Thursday 29 th	Psalm 34 or 78: 1-39	Genesis 45: 1 - 15	Hebrews 3: 1 - 6

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References available

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Email c.may981@btinternet.com

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Magazine when contacting any
of our Advertisers.
Thank you***

Lent Lunches

Holyrood Church Holybourne

The Lent Lunches which are held annually at Holybourne Church will commence on Wednesday 21st February 2024 and will go on through Lent for five weeks. No need to book in, just come along and enjoy good food and good company.

Time: 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm

Come along and enjoy the company of our church family. For each lunch 3 soups will be available, and they are served with a bread roll and soft drinks and afterwards tea or coffee and cake and/or fruit.

Donations are welcome as all proceeds go to Karamoja, Uganda to provide ministry support in Karamoja Diocese.

Lent Course

During Lent Christians come together from our different churches in Alton to share in worship and fellowship whilst exploring different themes within the Christian faith.

This year the five-week Lent Course will be based on Acts 2.42-47 under the heading:

The Early Church Shaping Us Today

Thursday 29th Feb. Mission led by Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Winchester

Thursday 7th March. Fellowship led by TBC

Thursday 21st March. Prayer led by Jason Clarke, Waverley Abbey

Thursday 28th March. Apostles Teaching led by TBC

Thursday 28th March. Breaking of Bread led by Andrew Lawrence, Harvest Church

The Lent Course is held at The Maltings (Harvest Church)

Arrive at 7.15 for refreshments, and a start at 7.30pm. We will finish each of the evenings before 9pm.

News from Alton Methodist Church

Services in February – all start at 10.00am

Sunday 4th: Morning Worship led by Jennie Marlow

Sunday 11th: Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 18th: Morning Worship led by Liz George

Sunday 25th: Morning Worship led by Annah Mwadiwa

The Lighthouse group for children will meet during the morning service as needed.

Recycling Ink Jet Cartridges for the Anna Chaplaincy

A bumper collection of cartridges sent off to Recycle4Charity on 12th January is due to benefit the Anna Chaplaincy Fund by £47.05.

Thank you for your donations to the box in the foyer of Alton Methodist Church.



World Day of Prayer Service - Friday 1st March

This year's service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton on Friday 1st March at 2pm. It has been prepared by Christian women of Palestine, so it's particularly poignant at the moment with all that's happening there. Do come along and be a part of this service which will be followed around the world on this day. All are welcome and there will be chance for further fellowship over a cup of tea afterwards.



2024 PROGRAMME



ALTON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN

Wednesday 28th February 10.30am meeting at The Flower Pots Inn in Cheriton

Wednesday 17th April 6.00pm meeting at The Hen and Chicken in Froyle

Friday 7th June 6.00pm meeting at The Hawkley Inn

Wednesday 10th July 6pm meeting at the Sun in Bentworth

Saturday 10th August 2.30pm meeting at The White Hart in Holybourne with family & friends invited

Wednesday 18th September 6.00pm meeting at The Yew Tree in Lower Wield

Friday 1st November 10.30am meeting at The Three Horseshoes in East Worldham

ROBIN KEMP

familykemp@tiscali.co.uk
07957 653 403

A gentle 90 minute walk with time to pause
and reflect. Refreshments after at the pub
www.potr-alton.co.uk

Alton Walking Church for Men - 2024 Programme

In 2024 we will be branching out into some new territory, visiting some different hostelrys and exploring fresh paths. It was great to be averaging a dozen stalwart walkers and even a couple of dogs on each of our walks last year: so let's see what God has in store for us this year. There are seven walks, six to eight weeks apart, but avoiding any clash with the Alton Walking Festival in May.

As ever there will be a brief talk and a prayer to set us on our way and develop a biblical perspective on the journey ahead. Each walk will be between an hour and a half and two hours at a moderate pace, including time to pause and reflect.

We begin and end at a local pub, providing an opportunity to share refreshments or a light meal afterwards. While most of the walks are for men only, we will follow the established tradition of an August walk from The White Hart in Holybourne which will be open to friends and family.

You can book a place by phoning me on 07957 653403 or emailing me on familykemp@tiscali.co.uk. In the event of bad weather I would contact you and invite you to skip the walk and meet at the pub at a later time for a light meal.

Alton Womens' Refuge


Huge thanks to everyone who provided such a wonderful variety of goods for the Alton Womens' Refuge over Christmas. The staff are truly grateful to have been able to distribute your generous gifts of Advent Calendars, plus all the colouring and reading books, crayons, toys, and toiletries. These are truly appreciated by their guests and children who usually arrive with only the clothes they stand up in, having fled abusive relationships from different parts of the country to seek safety.

There were 9 mothers and 13 children who benefitted from your generosity, and for whom the presents showed someone cares, at what can be a very difficult time.

New residents continue to arrive as homes are found for some to move on. Everyday necessities are still welcome all year round in the box at the back of St. Lawrence or at the Parish Office.

THANK YOU.

Peta Sutherland



Waverley Singers

Farnham Maltings
Sunday 24 March, 6:00pm

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The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 284123

OPEN SIGHT

Open Sight is a club for those with visual impairment. It meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at All Saints Church Hall at 2.30pm. The next meeting will be held on 19th February when we welcome Tyler Phillips who will give us a talk on behalf of the Macular Society.

We have a variety of talks and social afternoons throughout the year – and the meetings provide an opportunity to make new friends. We also enjoy refreshments of tea, sandwich and cake and usually end with being told a joke or two!

Open Sight comes under the umbrella of Open Sight Hampshire where there are staff who can provide support and advice regarding equipment to assist with daily living. Several of our members have made use of this service and have found it invaluable.

If you would like further information regarding the group please contact:

Malcolm Cooper on 01420 549525



Parish of the Resurrection Quiz



Holyrood Church Holybourne on Friday 16th February 2024

6.00 pm for a prompt start at 6.30 pm

The cost of the quiz is £12.50 per person. A fish and Chip supper and a glass of prosecco is included in the cost.

You can have up to 8 people in your team

Last year's quiz with quiz master Rosemary (back by popular demand) was well supported and proved to be a resounding success.

To sign up please email Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver

keithnorman@btinternet.com or Call 01420 542135

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Resurrection Furniture

Alton Town Council Mayor Ben Hamlin kindly joined us 11/1/24 to award certificates to our longest serving volunteers.

Resurrection Furniture 21b High Street Alton, is a charity furniture and lifestyle shop. We sell furniture, Bric a Brac, Electricals, Homeware, Gifts and Jewellery that have been donated. All of our profits then go to support local causes in Alton and the surrounding area.

We have several volunteers that have been with us since Resurrection first opened, and we wanted to say "Thank you" for all their hard work and dedication. We would like to thank Alton Town Mayor Ben Hamlin, for making our event even more special. The Mayor had a tour of the shop, including our furniture restoration and electrical testing area

We had the chance to show The Mayor the wide range of furniture, accessories and gifts currently in the shop.

We also took the opportunity to update the Mayor on grants that Resurrection Furniture have awarded over the last 6 months. All of these have been awarded to good causes in Alton and the surrounding area.



What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 2 February

St Lawrence Church

Monthly Coffee Mornings (first Friday in month), at St. Lawrence Church, from 10.30am until 12.00am.

The informal sessions are open to everyone, with plenty of cake and conversation.

Please come along, and meet-up with old friends, and make new ones.

POTR St Lawrence Monthly Market

Saturday 3 February 9.00 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre,

Books, Puzzles, Produce & Cakes and much more!

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 6th February

John Challenger - Salisbury Cathedral



GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 28 January 12.15 for 12.30pm Swan Hotel

If you have not already booked and ordered your main course, please contact Norma Duke on 01420 84722. This is an excellent way of getting to know more people. You are very welcome to join us and to invite a friend to come long too. But don't forget to book the friend and their main course.

Men's Breakfast

We will be meeting again at the White Hart public house, Holybourne at 8.30am on **Saturday 24th February** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, Mark Rumsby, whose talk is titled 'Astronomy from a Christian Angle.' If you have not attended the breakfast for a while we would love to see you again. Please reply to Tim Codling by email: tim.codling@hotmail.co.uk or telephone him on 01420 80388 by **Wednesday 21st February**.

Church of the Holy Rood Holybourne Every Tuesday 10am until 12noon

Please join us and perhaps bring along a friend, for our time of coffee, tea, cake and chat from 10am, followed by a short time of prayer from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

All Saints Coffee and Conversation (2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am to 11.30am after Communion at 10am)

for friendship and sharing faith.

All welcome at any time, come and just enjoy the company and join in the sharing if you wish. Our sharing includes at the moment an overview of Jesus life and also people sharing their their own delights, difficulties and questions.

Anything is allowed, it is very informal and open to anyone to just come and see." No experience necessary ! " led by Anne Mason"

GAP Traidcraft Coffee Morning Every Tuesday from 10-12 noon

Alton Methodist Church.

All profits to local charities. Come and catch up with friends over coffee.

Anna Chaplaincy Update - February 2024

Happy New Year from The Anna Chaplaincy Team!

We are really looking forward to seeing what 2024 has in store for us as we continue to see our community links thrive. Attendance at services in care home settings is increasing and it is wonderful to see God at work amongst the residents and staff. Our home visit list is also lengthening as trust is garnered amongst healthcare professionals and we continue to thoroughly enjoy the different activity groups we attend.

Please remember to contact me if you know of any older people in Alton who you feel might benefit from an Anna Chaplaincy visit. My contact details are:

email: annachaplainalton@gmail.com or

phone: 07539 026546

I look forward to hearing from you soon...

Kate, Anna Chaplain



Resurrection Furniture is recruiting

Our charity is led by six trustees. Following Ruth Randall's retirement, we are looking to recruit a trustee for the specific role of Honorary Secretary to organise our meetings and be the main link with other organisations including the Charity Commission. The duties will be to arrange meetings, take minutes, deal with correspondence and RF policies and the like. We meet around six times per year and all trustees are also volunteers in some capacity.

For further information and a job description please go to our website www.resurrectionfurniture.co.uk. If this role interests you, please speak to either John Hubbard john.mkh@outlook.com or Robin Lees j.lees558@btinternet.com in the first instance.

Ways to keep warm each winter and reduce your carbon footprint

Are you feeling the cold and worrying about the cost of heating your house? Many in the Parish and our town will feel the same way. So, what can you do apart from putting on an extra jumper and heading off to one of the warm hubs in Alton?

In most houses its possible to make some simple improvements that will save energy costs and make you feel more comfortable. The question is where to start and what will it cost?

For several years Energy Alton has been giving out free advice to homeowners. The easiest way is to book a free home energy survey. One of our volunteer energy surveyors will spend about an hour with you and then give a report with some practical suggestions. Often the easiest to do such as draught proofing and insulation are the cheapest as well.

We are also able to offer a grant of up to £100 or 50% of the cost of any energy saving work if you live in a property that is in Council tax bands A to D.

So why not request a survey from Energy Alton and tell your friends about the offer too?

Just go to the website [**www.energyalton.org.uk**](http://www.energyalton.org.uk) and fill in the contact form or email us at [**info@energyalton.org.uk**](mailto:info@energyalton.org.uk) or phone on **07811 462 659**

John Hubbard





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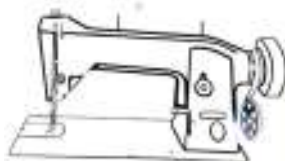
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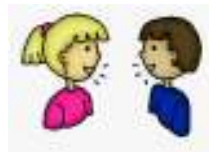


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Hard of Hearing Group – latest news

Lip Reading

The new term will start on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**, 2pm in the All Saints Church Hall. Put the date in your new diary and come along and give it a try. You will be made very welcome!



KNITTERS ANONYMOUS

Handmade – with Love



We hope that you all had a lovely, peaceful Christmas and are ready once again to support our various projects – knitting for Bliss (the charity for premature babies) and for the various Refugee Charities to which we donate. The Group meet regularly on the third Tuesday of every month from 2pm in the Church Hall. Do come along, pick up some suggested patterns and wool, have a chat and make new friends. If you wish to remain 'anonymous' just drop your Knits in the large collecting box in All Saints Church. All are gratefully received and quickly despatched to their various destinations. The first meeting the new year is at 2pm on **Tuesday 16th January, 2024**. Thank you for your continued support Kate 83514 kaddando@gmail.com

After an enjoyable 'Christmassy' afternoon at the end of November the group finished the year with a Carol Service led by Revd Wendy Burnhams on 12th December, in the church. Thank you to all who volunteered at these meetings, your help is really appreciated. The first main monthly meeting of the year will be held on **23rd January 2pm** in the Church hall, when the speaker will be Nick Shelley from the Battersea Dogs Home

For further details about the Group and a list of the speakers booked for the main monthly meetings contact Annette ablackman4@googlemail.com

Meet and Eat – women's group for Fun and Fellowship

Seventeen of the Meet and Eat group met on Monday 4th December at Holy Rood Church to enjoy a bring and share supper followed by a Christmas quiz. We enjoyed a wonderful selection of delicious food and stretched our brains with Sue's quiz 😊

Meet and Eat – women's group for Fun and Fellowship

Our next Meet and Eat will be on Monday 4th March starting at 7pm in Holy Rood Church. Look out for more details in Parish Matters nearer the time.

Please do chat to Kathy Norkett at All Saints, Sarah Neish at Beech, Gill Tull at Holy Rood, Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney and Alison Parr at St. Lawrence about the group.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list or need any further information just email Lyn Baines at meetandeat@btinternet.com



ST LAWRENCE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hello again! This is Matthew, Emily, Ava and Oliver. We would like to tell you about some things that have happened over the last few weeks.

Congratulations to all the members of the All Stars Club this week. They are: Oliver in Year 6, Mackenzie in Year 5, George in Year 4, Aubree in Year 3, Alexander in Year 2, Freddie in Year 1 and Archie in Year R. We do this every week to reward the pupils who have been doing outstanding work; making an effort; being kind and showing our school values. One child from each class is nominated and they get to enjoy a mug of hot chocolate (and marshmallows if they want!) with Mrs Micklefield in the staff room or her office.

Just recently, Year 3 went to the Hindu Temple in Southampton. It looked like good fun and we hope everyone enjoyed it. When approaching the Vedic (temple) they saw some extremely detailed statues. Year 3 were then asked to take their shoes off and enter the temple. They observed a service, which really helped them to understand more about the Hindu faith. Enjoyed watching respectfully as they banged the drums and saw them offer fruits to their Gods.

Earlier this week, Year 2 visited the SeaCity Museum as part of the topic on the Titanic. They first looked around the museum and then smelt some scents of what the Titanic would have smelt like. They looked at pictures of rooms aboard the Titanic: the engine room, the V.I.P. rooms and the stores. They dressed up and also learnt a lot about the people who were on board the Titanic. Many of them were from Southampton but did you know that one person was born in Alton? His name was Herbert Harry Christmas and he lived in Tanhouse Lane before moving to Southampton to get married and where he started work. We hope they enjoyed it and had a great time.



To add to an action packed week, we also took part in the Alton Cluster School's swimming gala. It has been a long time since we have had one of these in Alton so it was amazing to see this back in the calendar of PE events. Thank you to Miss Panther for helping to organise it. Each person swam in two races and could choose between front crawl and backstroke. There was a freestyle race too. We also did a relay race in our year groups. Mrs Micklefield said "The children were absolutely brilliant and put so much effort into their swimming. They were cheering our team on (and also those that finished in other lanes next to them too.) They behaved beautifully and I was so incredibly proud of them."

Well done to the Year 3 team: Toby, Niamh, Felicity, Regan; the Y4 team: Amaiya, Arthur, Esben, Bethany; the Y5 team: Isabelle, Josh, Eleanor, Jojo & the Y6 team: Elin, Emily, Matthew & Murray.



From

Oliver and Ava (Deputy Head Boy & Girl) and Emily (Head Girl) and Matthew (Head Boy)

Notes from a Curious Choir

Things are quite quiet on the choir front at present so I was a bit stuck for what to blather on about, as we say in Scotland. Currently, we're practicing an anthem for Candlemas in February and that got me curious about this holy day. If you were to ask the average person in the street, I doubt they would have a clue as to what you were on about. So, I've done a bit of trawling on t'interweb and I have some interesting facts for you. Candlemas is celebrated on 2nd February and marks the return of light, a symbol of protection and prosperity. This Christian festival commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel. On this day, Christians take candles to be blessed in church, while for those with a sweet tooth, this day is also a chance to eat pancakes. The consumption of pancakes would be a tribute to the cycle of seasons and more precisely to the arrival of Spring which announces better days. Elsewhere in the world, people eat corn-based dishes or watch out for a groundhog emerging from hibernation!

As to the origin of pancakes, Pope Gelasius I is said to have given wafers or flatbread to pilgrims arriving in Rome. However, there are also other stories and superstitions. Round, golden pancakes served in February are evocative of the sun and may have been a symbol of fertility and prosperity. In order to obtain an abundant harvest, a farmer would traditionally flip the first pancake with his right hand while holding a gold coin in his left hand. The gold coin would then be wrapped inside the pancake and kept at the top of a wardrobe until the following year, to then be given to the first poor person encountered; covered in mouldy pancake, no doubt!

Now to the groundhog connection. The United States and Canada celebrate Groundhog Day on the same day as Candlemas, 2nd February. On this day, the custom is to try to predict the end of winter by observing a groundhog burrow. If the weather is cloudy and the emerging rodent does not see its shadow, spring will soon arrive. However, if it is sunny and the mammal sees its shadow, it will be frightened and retreat to its den to continue hibernating. It is then said that winter will last another six weeks. Let's hope it's cloudy on 2nd February!

Candlemas honours the end of winter and the return of light, so various proverbs link it to the weather, to the cold or the return of the sun. Here are two examples:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight."

"If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again."

So, there you go. A few snippets of Candlemas information which might be useful for a quiz or give you a teeny bit of smugness as you now know more than most people.

Elaine Cook

Hard of Hearing Group – latest news

LIP READING

Come and join us on Tuesday 6th February 2024, 2pm in the Church Hall for a session of Lip Reading with our tutor Maggie Short. You will be made very welcome!



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Thank you to you all, both known and unknown, for such a good start to the new year, with your very generous donations, totalling nine big bags of colourful knits to our Refugee Charities and two for Bliss, for the premature babies, all of which have now been collected. Please keep up your good work, it is so appreciated. Further donations can always be left in the box on the pew at the back of all Saints Church or why not come along and join us when the group meet next on Tuesday 20th February 2pm in All Saints Church hall. Thank you for your continued support Kate 83514 kaddando@gmail.com

REMEMBER - The next monthly meeting of the Hard of Hearing Group will be held on **Tuesday 27th February 2pm** in the Church hall, when the speaker will be our local Historian, Jane Hurst, followed by a Raffle and a chat over a cup of tea. All welcome

For further details about the Group and a list of the speakers booked for the main monthly meetings contact

Annette ablackman4@googlemail.com

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Afternoon tea

On 29th December people met together for food and fellowship in the Parish Centre. There was a fabulous spread with sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones, jam and cream, an amazing selection of cakes and a wonderful Christmas cake, laced with brandy, made by Tim Codling.

Guests were greeted with a glass of fizz and were then treated to a selection of songs by Robin Kemp, with everyone joining in with the singing. Tea followed with plenty of chat to accompany it. Everyone enjoyed the food and some “doggy bags” were made up for guests to take home.

This was a GAP event and people from both Alton Methodist church and POTR participated. There were many helpers, baking, preparing food, decorating the hall, serving, washing up and transporting guests. I think the helpers enjoyed it as much as the guests!

Huge thanks to all those who worked so tirelessly to make this such an enjoyable and delicious afternoon.

Sue Dell



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"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take
on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

Sunrise
IT'S YOURS - BY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

**The March Copy Deadline is Noon
Sunday 18 February - Please no late articles**

Articles can be emailed to the editor **sunrise.alton@gmail.com**
left in Parish Office or taken to 31 Shipley Close.

Editor Peter Hicks 07768 041 622

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Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Catherine Morgan cathmorg@outlook.com

Organ Society

Tony Willman 543628

Girls' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Kym Burgess 01252 334814

Boys' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Pete Burgess 01252 334814

DofE

David Allan 84739

February Services for POTR & BLS

4th February

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10.30am	POTR Altogether Service with ATC	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Lasham
10am	Communion Service	St Peter & St Paul Shalden
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

11th February

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
3pm	Afternoon Worship	All Saints Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Ash Wednesday

10am	Communion with ashes	All Saints Church
7.30pm	Communion with ashes	St Lawrence Church

18th February

9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	All Saints Church
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Church@4	Parish Centre
6pm	Choral Evensong	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Lasham
6pm	Evensong	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

25th February

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
6pm	Informal Evening Worship	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Every Wednesday:

10.00am	Said Holy Communion	All Saints
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